



Minutes

Bicycle & Trails Advisory Committee

REGULAR MEETING

MAY 26, 2005

CALL TO ORDER: Vice-Chairman Hauge called the meeting to order at 6:45pm

PRESENT: Clark, McCann, and Hauge

ABSENT: Scott, Hubbell, and Cheu

STAFF: Public Works Senior Engineer Julie Behzad
Public Works Administrative Secretary Karen Nelson

DECLARATION - POSTING OF AGENDA: Ms. Behzad certified that this meeting's agenda was duly noticed and posted in accordance with Government Code Section 54954.2.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Ms. Behzad opened the meeting to public comments. There being no comments, the public comments period was closed.

MINUTES: The minutes for the April 28, 2005 meeting were unanimously approved.

ORAL REPORTS:

1. Staff Report

*** Fundraising Legalities for BTAC Sponsored Events**

Ms. Behzad reported that the City Attorney gave an opinion to the City Manager – Ms. Behzad is waiting for Mr. Tewes to get back to her.

*** Appointment of BTAC Members / PRC May Meeting**

Steve Cheu was re-appointed at May PRC meeting. There is one other applicant to be appointed in June.

2. Countywide Bicycle/Pedestrian Advisory Committee Update (BPAC)

Member Hauge has not yet been appointed to the Committee; former BTAC member, Bob Eltgroth attended the meeting and gave the following report (via e-mail):

The paperwork for Chris Hauge to replace me as the VTA BPAC representative for Morgan Hill was missing his bio, which is needed before the VTA board can approve him. Since the board doesn't meet in June, the next opportunity for them to appoint him is at their July meeting which, with meeting timing, means he won't take over for me until the August VTA BPAC meeting. If past experience holds true, there probably won't be a BPAC meeting in June.

Michelle DeRobertis was introduced as VTA's newly hired replacement for Celia Chung. She has the same phone number. Michelle comes from a job in Alameda, but before that she consulted on many bicycle master plans and projects including some in Cupertino and Palo Alto. Good credentials and many VTA BPAC members are familiar with her work; she's presented to the BPAC in her past consulting work. VTA was serious about finding a good replacement for Celia.

The business item about CA SB 1233 (allowing localities to ban bicycles on expressways) ended up put off after discussion at the May meeting because the county staff presenting the effects did not adequately study the language in the bill.

The 101 project south of 25 did not make it onto the agenda, and it will be discussed at a future meeting. Currently bicycles are allowed on 101. No alternate route is available, so under California law, the project should plan to allow bicycles after the conversion to freeway. Earlier, staff said this wasn't in the plan, but staff also earlier said the same about the 152/156 interchange, and they later reversed themselves.

One business item was about the Countywide Bicycle Expenditures Plan. Since the Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 bicycle project funding methodology has changed, some projects were moved around. The Llagas Creek Trail is still in for Morgan Hill, but it will be a problem keeping it there.

The BPAC gets quarterly reviews with VTA's comments about projects throughout the county. The Cochran Dennys project was the only Morgan Hill project in the list. VTA pointed out the need pointed out the need for better pedestrian facilities and also bicycle parking. My observations show that Morgan Hill often leaves bicycle parking out of their projects even though the Morgan Hill Bikeways Master Plan calls for it. Samantha Swan, who handles the VTA end, says that Rebecca Tolentino is her primary contact in Morgan Hill for these projects. It might be worthwhile for the MH BTAC to invite her to a meeting to find out how she views planning for bicycles.

BUSINESS

1. City Council Goals Regarding Governance / BTAC Work Plan

Ms. Behzad reported that Julie Spier approved adding several items to the Work Plan. Councilmember Grzan noted that we needed to add a workplan item for trails. Ms. Behzad passed out the Workplan table, 11 items in total showing.

On June 1st, 5-6:30pm, a subcommittee will review all work plans from committees and Ms. Behzad asked for someone from BTAC be available, and Member Hauge agreed to attend. Member McCann asked that we emphasize that BTAC has moved from being a group that is just an advisory committee

to an action group that makes events happen, ie, bike race, bike rodeo at Art ala Carte. He emphasized that the point should be made that members are effectors and facilitators versus just advisors, which makes it more appropriate that BTAC be a commission, not a committee. The group has evolved over the last two years into more than was envisioned at its implementation. Member Hauge noted that BTAC hadn't given much advice to the City lately, such as what was done with bike loops, nor has much review of nor advice given on the Bikeways Master Plan (BMP). Member Clark suggested that maybe BTAC members should review development plans for bike parking before the development is built for compliance with the BMP. Ms. Behzad noted that because of this committee's work we have bike parking at the Community and Cultural Center and at the Aquatics Center. The Planning Department is responsible for reviewing bike parking and access for new development. Some of the activities of the Committee (ie, Bike Rodeo) fulfill the educational outreach called for in the BMP.

Referring to accomplishment of BMP goals, remarks were made that the BMP lays out where in the City bike lanes are to be implemented; new bike lanes have been installed in Tennant & Central Avenues, "Yield to Bike" signs were installed, bike loops are being installed at any new intersection, and any new street being striped includes bike lanes. Member Clark asked, "Once the process is working, how do we get items on the list that need to be done?" He noted that West Main Avenue doesn't have a bike lane, and asked, "Is the place to ask if it can be done?" Ms. Behzad said she can research any question and report back. Ms. Behzad noted that the events BTAC accomplishes increase the community's perception of the importance of biking and raise awareness.

Ms. Behzad reported on the Trails Master Plan (TMP) status. Public Works (PW) found a consultant to perform the work and Council requested that staff apply for grants. This work is part of PW's Five Year CIP. PW applied for a couple different grants, and one was approved. With that funding, the consultant will work on the TMP, and this committee will review the TMP after it is prepared.

2. Ethics Policy

Ms. Behzad reported on the New Ethics Policy, adopted by Council on April 20, 2005. Members were requested to review the policy and provide feedback to the Council. No comments were given. Ms. Behzad will clarify when Members have to sign acknowledgment with and agreement to the Policy. Council will be reviewing the Policy again in July.

3. Bikeways Master Plan Quarterly Review

Member Clark noted that several projects are noted as complete.

4. Bike Race

Member Scott was not present and this item was deferred.

5. Bike Rodeo

Member McCann attended the wrap-up meeting, where thanks were given to the committee for their

participation. Bike parking was provided; it was well received and should be an integral part of future bike rodeos. Member McCann expressed to Therese Lugger that the committee is willing to be a part of Art Ala Carte next year, but would prefer not to be in the position of having to raise funds. Therese suggested that the bike rodeo be held every other year. SafeMoves kept the registration slips so no accurate count, however, there were between 132 and 200 participants. The location was good, and the amount of equipment, helmets and bikes, was sufficient.

6. Bike To Work Week

Member Clark commended Member McCann for his tenacity in accomplishing this effort. Only 15 people registered. There was generous support from community; Specialized Bikes donated water bottles, Albertson's, a corporate sponsor, donated water and bananas. Silicon Valley Bike Coalition handled the event this year. This year's location is owned by the VTA, so there was no need for insurance for CalTrain. Member McCann will return the banner to PW.

7. Educational Programs (ie. Sprockids/LAB Programs)

Member Hubbell was not present and this item was deferred.

8. Bike Parking at Various Community Events

Member Clark said that for Mushroom Mardi Gras, bike parking will be in the same location as last time.

9. Morgan Hill's Bicycle Friendly Community Application

Member Hauge requested this item be deferred. He needs to update the information on the application.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- None

REQUESTS FOR FUTURE ITEMS

(This is the opportunity for any committee member to have an item placed on a future agenda.)

- Appointment of New BTAC Members
- Appointment of Chair and Vice Chair
- Bikeways Master Plan Quarterly Review
- Trails Master Plan – discuss status of the grant and consultant's work – Member Clark

ADJOURNMENT: Meeting was adjourned at 7:45pm. The next meeting will be held on June 23, 2005 at 6:15 pm.